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### HIS LAST SHOT.

He had a sturdy, well-knit figure, and sat his horse like a centanr. He had, too, the unmistakable cut of a military man, though he was dressed

in citizen's garb. The horseman to whom we allude in our opening sentences was riding leisurely along a rugged road—or rather lane—bordered by tall hedges, with a

sprinkling here and there of pine, larch and oak.

Suddenly the horse stopped, trembling in every limb. And no wonder, either, for right in front of them, and not more than half a dozen paces away, was suspended a

human form, with ghastly face and wide-open eyes, flooded up by the full light of the yellow moon. The form was that of a man who, a few short hours before, was in the very plenitude of health and strength,

but who swung now with pendulous motion in the night winds. In the first place, the victim was not suspended by the neck, as is usually

A strong rope had been secured under his arm-pits, his arms being pin-ioned tightly to his sides; and then the rope had been thrown over the stout limb of an oak and tied there. This was not all.

A closer inspection revealed the fact that a bowie-knife had been driven through the suspended man's heart, and the merciless haft, where its silver mountings caught the light, emitted a metallic glitter in the moon's rays. There was no doubt but the man

had been murdered before he had been suspended to the tree-but not a drop of blood could be detected where the murderous blade had entered his body. The horseman had by this time dismounted, and approached the corpse. His attention was attracted to an erticle of the man's dress, to which a small square of paper had been at-

There were two or three scrawling lines on the paper-tines of dread im-

They warned him to beware of the fate which had overtaken the corpse, and if he set a value on his life, to pass on without inquiry.

"Whoever you may be, I'll act on your advice," said the horseman, as an loy shudder passed through him. "Poor fellow!"—gazing pityingly at the murdered man—"I am sorry for you, but I can do nothing! And by taying here I endanger my own safety to no purpose."

He was soon mounted again, and passing along the road as before. But he could not banish from his vision that ghastly face, those staring eyes; they seemed to be continually

About three-quarters of a mile farther on the road took an abrupt turn. Horse and rider had just emerged from the shadow of some overhanging trees, so dense that not a ray of moonlight penetrated their interlacing

The road had been pitch dark for about three hundred yeards, when this sudden turn brought him once more into the clear moonlight.

Here he discovered that he was not Not more than five yards in front

was a rather tall, stalwart-looking man, mounted on a fine bay horse. Horse and rider stood motionless in

The stranger's back was turned at the time, so that our traveler did not at first see his face; but the sounds of horse's hoofs on the now hard, flinty road fell-on his ears, and hearing such, he wheeled with the suddenness of thought, until the light of the generous moon reflected on features that were pallid and corpse like.

Our traveler could not repress the exclamation of horror and surprise which broke from his lips-for there sat the exact prototype on the bay that he had seen suspended from the

oak tree. He could scarcely believe it possible that two men could look so much alike. Again he rubbbed his eyes, to make sure that he was not dreaming

Dreaming-indeed! He wished he was at that moment. No, he was not dreaming, for there sat the man with the identical face and expression of the corpse, even to the clothes he wore; in fact, every-thing that could identify him with the dead, excepting that the one was on horseback and the other hanging some three-quarters of a mile lower down

It was a marvelous resemblance. "Hillo, friend!" shouted the man on the bay. "You look as though you had seen a ghost! You're not afraid of me,

"Afraid of you-why?" gasped the traveler.

"That I leave for you to explain. You seem to be, anyhow. Going far in this direction?" asked the stranger with a sinister look on his ghastly face.

"Yes." "Might I ask where?" "You may if you like," replied our traveler, recovering from his nervous-gess' somewhat "but I'll reserve the

right to answer "Well, that's nothing but fair and square," rejoined the other, good hu-"Besides, it's no business of moredly.

mine, anyhow." "That's what I was thinking," said the traveler, "Are you, yourself, jour-neying in this direction?" "I am, indeed; and I thought, as you seem to be a good, square fellow, you'd

have no objection to my keeping your company—that is, so far as either of That's all, right. But how far do

one question, stranger, if you'll not think it impertinent."
"Proceed with your question," said the traveler, never taking his eyes for a moment off his companion. "Are you for the Union or against

'Why do you want to know?" "Oh, only through a matter of mere

"In reply to your question," said the traveler, "I will ask you another: Are you for the Union?"

"Every time, stranger; every time!" "You're a Yank, I suppose?" "You had better believe I am. I am

thorough, old man, from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet." With whatever peculiar sensations our traveler had been affected at first, he saw now that this man, notwithstanding the extraordinary resemblance he bore to the ghastly corpse down the road, was apparently a jolly fellow enough, with plenty of life blood

in his veins. "I should presume," said the stranger after awhile, "that you favor Uncle Sam, too?"

"Yes," frankly admitted the other. "I am a soldier of the Union." "Yet in citizen's clothes?" "As you see. But you also are a

The stranger admitted that he was. "Any brothers in the army?" asked the traveler.

"No." "Any in civil life?" Again came the answer in the nega-

"Strange!" muttered the other; "the resemblance is only one of mere accident, of course. Yet I cannot under-

stand why one should be so much like the other. Still-" Here our traveler paused, for his companion had his sinister eyes fixed on him with a keen, penetrating scrutiny, as much as to say: "For whom do

you take me?" The look having no effect, the stranger put the question direct, and our traveler without reserve related what he had encountered in the road. The man appeared shocked. His

pallid face, as the moonlight fell on it, turned to a more livid hue, and for the first time he showed concern, if not absolute fear. "You must go back with me," he

He was laboring now under a powerful feeling of uneasiness and excitement

"You must return with me," he repeated firmly.

"For what object?" "To see this corpse."

ventured a moment later.

"But I have already lost more time than I can spare," objected the other. "That matters not. You must go back with me. I don't care to use force, but you perceive that I have you

covered. Yes, this was the fact.' The stranger had a pistol pointed at him, and there was enough in the peculiar glitter of the man's eyes to convince our traveler that if he refused to accede to the request he would without hesitating

fire upon him. Under the circumstances he had no option but to obey.

So back they went. But no pendulous form hung swaying in the night breeze as previously. Not even the slightest trace was left

of the late ghastly corpse. "Where's the dead man?" asked his companion sardonically. Ay, where was it? This was a ques-

tion which our traveler could not answer. All that he could explain was that he had seen, had examined it, and no more.

This did not seen to suit the humon of his strange companion, however. Suddenly he grew excited, then vio-

His eyes flashed with insane rage, but whatever he was about to do or say was unexpectedly interrupted by a startling volley fired by some unseen foe, and the man fell from his horse as though struck by one of the bullets. As he fell a dozen men scrambled through a deep rent in one of the hedges, and cries of "Down with the Yankee," rung savagely on the night

"Take the Yank's last shot," came back the cry of the stricken man. A detonation followed his words that shook the air; and an unearthly yell went up as one of the foremost of

the attacking party dropped with a beavy thud into the road. Our traveler, before he could draw a weapon, felt himself hurled to the earth-stricken insensible from the

blow of the but end of a pistol. When he had recovered the moon was still shining, and shining, too-

on what? The corpse of his late companion swinging to and fro in the night breeze—the fulfillment of the vision, vision, in every particular, which he had seen at first, with even the wide open eyes following him as before, and the face drawn, pallid and ghost-like. In the horror of the moment he sent

the dingy brink of some fearful preci-The spell was broken He came down as it were in an never-ending fall, which shook and rattled every bone in his body.

up a cry of despair, struggled as a man

might in the grasp of an assassin, on

He had fallen from his horse into the road, and when he found things no worse, a fervent "Thank God!" came in all gratitude from his lips. Our traveler, as it happened, was a

Union coldier, who had been riding two nights and two days consecutively

An acknowledged authority on the pronunciation of Chinese names as transliterated into English assures us that there need be no serious difficulty in sounding the many Chinese names now appearing in the newspapers if the speaker will remember that the vowels in these names are uniformly those of the Italian or continental alphabet, namely:

1. A is always about as a in far; e always approximately as e in they or then; i very like i in machine or pin; o as either the o of song or

Also, it should be remembered, every syllable has an independent va-lue and should be given that value

in pronunciation. nounced exactly as written. These three rules will secure as correct a pronunciation of Chinese names as can be secured without oral

instruction. For example, under the first rule one would say tah-koo, for Taku, not take-you. as one may frequently hear

Lee-hoong-chahng for Li Hung

Chang, not lie-hung-chang.
Peh-king, for Pekin, not peek-in. Shahng-hah-ee, for Shanghai, not shnag-high. Tsoong-lee-yahmen for Tsung Li

Yamen, not tsung lie yaymen, and so Under the second rule Tien Tsin is pronounced teeyen tsinn, accepting

General Nich's name is Nee-veh. The Chinese coin tael is not tale, but tah-ale pronounced quickly. Yun-nan fu is yoon-nahn-foo, not

In like manner all words are pro-

nounced with syllable distinctnes and with uniform vowel sound. Under the third rule the province pame Szechuan is sounded, not ze-kuan, but nearly as zehchooahn, touching the choo very lightly; Nganbwei as inggahnghoowayee, dropping the initial i sound; Lian-tong penin-sula is leeahoo-tong, and the German possession Kiau Chau is Kecahoo

Arithmetic Before Moses There' is a ray of vindictive comfort for the modern schoolboy in the fact that for thirty-six hundred years his schoolboy progenitors have been worried by just such desperate problems in arithmetic as ennoy him most.

Among the recent archaeological discoveries in Egypt, is a papyrus roll, in excellent condition, dating from a period about 1700 B.C. This roll, which has a long heading be ginning, "Directions how to obtain the knowledge of all dark things," proves beyond a doubt that the Egyptian of that time had a thorough knowledge of the elements of arith-

metic. principal operations with units and fractions were made by means of addition and multiplication. Subtraction and division were not known in their present farm, but correct re-sults were obtained, nevertheless.

Equations are also found in the papyrus. Here is one which brings the Egyptian schoolboy home to us: Ten measures of barley are to be di-vided among ten persons in such a shall receive one eighth of a measure less than the one before him. An-other example given is: There are seven men, each one has seven cats, each cat has eaten seven mice, each mouse has eaten seven grains of barley. Each grain of barley would have yielded seven measures of barley. How much

barley has been lost?

The papyrus also contains calculations of area, the calculation of the area of a circle, attempts to squaring the circle, and finally calculations of the cubic measurements of pyra

Boyal Proposals.

The circumstances under which the Queen and Prince Albert became engaged have often been described. There is also a pretty story as to where the Prince of Wales first set eyes on the most popular of our Princesses. Concerning the popping of the question by some of the other royalties less is known, but there is an article on the subject in the current Univer-sal Magazine. When, in 1874, the Duke of Edinburgh brought home his Russian bride it was considered a good omen by many Britons who still recollected the terrible days of the Crimean war and our former feud with Russia. No more splendid sur-roundings could possibly be imagined for "preposing" than the precincts and salons of the Grand Palace of St. Petersburg, where the Imperial family reside. And here it was that the Russian Princess first received the proposal of our Sailor Prince.

The London Outlook revives a tru story of the provost of Kirkcaldy who is evidently not a purist in the who is evidently not a purist in the use of language. He had been laughed at for pronouncing "artipodes" as if it rhymed with "modes," and resolved in future to be on his guard. Sir William Harcourt, accompanied by Mr. L. V. Harcourt, was honoring the burgh with his oring the burgh with his presence and the provost had to discuss with his guests the lamentable unsanitary

state of the place.

"And you know, sir," said he,
"you know how much people nowadays think of mac-ro-bes!" Again and again did he dwell on the mystic name, until Mr. Harcourt was moved to ask: "About these mac-ro-bes, Mr. Provost. Are they a local clan?"

A rare instance of physical endur ance was mentioned at an inquest at

A man over 60, a night watchman two nights and two days coasecutively without sleep. His mission, which was with McClellan, did not admit of delay, and worn out with fatigue, he had failen into a restless slumber on horseback, from which, he was rudely awakened by his, numble into the road.

His vision was only the fantasy of his aleening moments. What is

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